

if we do not lose heart." Dorian Rorex did not grow weary of doing good, and he did not lose heart. In all of his life's endeavors he worked to help people. He was a member of Tarrytown Baptist Church and a graduate of West Side High School. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, who served in Operation Desert Storm. While serving as a member of the Gary Police Department he was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, the S.W.A.T. team, and served as an Honor Guardsman.

Dorian's life ended too soon, but his life was full, and he lived it with honor and a sense of duty to others. In all of our endeavors to make our community safe, we were encouraged by his energy. We were made young by his enthusiasm, and, when things weren't perfect, we were warmed by his friendship. His commitment to his colleagues, his department and his city was complete. Dorian's love for his family was absolute. And, though we'll never know "Why?" Dorian was taken from us, we can take heart in knowing that at least part of the reason he gave his life was so that the world his son, David, inherits will be the best he could make it. And with that, in some small way, we can all try to make sure that Dorian's hope for a better world for David, and all of our sons and daughters, is fulfilled.

IN HONOR OF MR. PAT TORNILLO

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to publicly recognize an important civic leader and my good friend, Mr. Pat Tornillo.

As some of you may know, Pat has been the leader of a nearly four-decade effort to improve the public schools in the Miami-Dade County area.

Pat arrived in the Great State of Florida in 1956. As a new teacher in Miami-Dade, he took an active role in the Dade County Classroom Teachers Association (which is now known as the United Teachers of Dade). Today, 42 years later, he serves as the Executive Director of that important organization.

This week, on February 7, the educational and political communities of Florida are joining together to honor Pat L. Tornillo for his "Uncommon Commitment to Public Education." This commitment includes turning Miami-Dade's public schools into one of the largest and most culturally diverse school systems in the country today.

Mr. Tornillo's work has been publicly noted before. He has won the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Brotherhood Award, the Outstanding Leadership Award from the United Way, and the NAACP Distinguished Award. Now, it is Congress' turn. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues to join me today as we honor a truly great American. A grateful nation thanks Pat Tornillo.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR LIONEL WILSON

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a historic figure, Lionel Wilson, who was elected in 1977 as the first African American Mayor of the City of Oakland, California. Lionel passed away recently at the age of 82 and left a legacy that forever changed the political contours of the city.

Born in New Orleans, Lionel came to his "hometown" of Oakland, California with his family at age 3. He attended Clawson Elementary and McClymonds High School. Lionel went to law school and eventually became the first African American Superior Court Judge in Alameda County. The Wilson Family became a cornerstone of the West Oakland neighborhood during its economic and social heydays of the forties and fifties. Lionel served as Chair of an anti-poverty board in the sixties and seventies that came out of the Great Society legislation under President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

When Oakland elected Lionel in 1977, City Hall was boldly turned around as his compassionate but firm leadership brought access to those who had been denied access. Wilson opened up city government for blacks and other minorities, creating a new Oakland that paved the way for a new generation of minority politicians. Critical to policy decision is the city budget which was the responsibility of the city manager; however, his insistence that the mayor must have an important role in the process led to a three-term mayor serving for 12 years. His broad vision can be seen in the development of downtown Oakland and its neighborhoods.

One passion that Lionel and I share is the love for baseball, in fact, to be professional players. As you see, history had other plans. Lionel Wilson will be greatly missed and remembered by all as a man with a vision for the City of Oakland.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF KENNETH ROGER THOMAS, ESQ.

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS and Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD in announcing the untimely passing of one of this nation's outstanding minority newspaper publishers. Kenneth Roger Thomas, Esq., publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, died on November 28, 1997. He was not only a friend, but a valiant crusader for the truth and a compassionate man who ceaselessly contributed his time and energy to those who needed help.

Born January 1, 1930, in Cleveland, Ohio to James Edward Thomas and Augusta

Dickerson, Ken spent his formative years in Marietta, Ohio. He completed his primary and secondary education there before attending Ohio University from 1947-1951, where he received a bachelor's degree in pre-medicine. His degree took him not to medical school but to the military; Thomas served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951-1956 in Korea and Japan, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant.

Upon returning to the states in 1956, Ken studied law at Ohio State University, earning his bachelor of laws and doctor of laws degrees in 1958 and 1967, respectively. He began his successful private law practice in 1960, and served as a California Probate Referee from 1974 until his death. Ken utilized his keen legal mind to assist and advise a number of organizations, including the Los Angeles Fair Housing Council, the NAACP, and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Over the course of his career, he served on the boards of the California Rapid Transit District, the Los Angeles Urban League, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Ken's affiliation with the Sentinel began with his service as longtime attorney for Ruth Washington, the widow of Sentinel founder and civil rights activist Col. Leon H. Washington, Jr. Col. Washington died in 1974, leaving the paper to his wife, who made Ken CEO in 1983. Ken brought tremendous energy and vision to the Sentinel, which had been foundering amid huge debts and antiquated equipment. Through his herculean efforts, the weekly was equipped with computers, its finances were stabilized, and the physical plant was renovated. Meanwhile, Ken found the stamina to maintain his private law practice and help the less fortunate, often playing Santa Claus for foster children at Christmas.

Ken was also important to the Sentinel and the Los Angeles community because he maintained the paper's commitment to relating the black experience to the general public, covering stories not told by the mainstream papers and providing frank commentary untinted by racial bias. He maintained an active interest in Los Angeles politics and was a trusted confidant and advisor to several community and political leaders.

Ken's tenacity, courage, conviction, love, and generosity will be sorely missed by us all. MAXINE, JUANITA, and I strongly urge our colleagues to join us in extending condolences to his loving wife Jennifer, his daughter Maria K. Thomas of Los Angeles, his extended family, and his many devoted friends.

PEACE INITIATIVE OF DR. ANTHONY S. LENZO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to a noble initiative proposed by Dr. Anthony S. Lenzo of Crown Point, Indiana. Dr. Lenzo has toiled selflessly for many years in an attempt to designate a "Weekend of Prayer, Meditation and Thought on the Futility of War and the Desperate Need for Peace in the World." His goal is to have the United States submit his resolution to the United Nations. Dr. Lenzo feels that, as a global leader and the chief proponent of